

a period. On the other hand, I must confess that "F. S. A." seems to me unable to grasp the difference between a style and a period. Mr. Sharpe seems too anxious to convert our philosophical theory into an external fact; "F. S. A." seems not to care for anything beyond the external facts.

In my fourfold nomenclature, I divide according to Window Tracery, because that is the feature in which the principles of the successive styles appear at once earliest and clearest. The tracery draws more directly than any other feature upon the leading principle of the style, and it is consequently that on which a philosophical nomenclature may be most appropriately grounded. But I am fully aware that no guide is so unsafe in fixing the date of buildings. Our guide to individual dates must be the mouldings, the very feature on which the general principles have least influence. Mouldings must always be a professional matter, and were doubtless always open only to professional fashion or whim. We may conceive the founder, whether now or four centuries back, giving directions for an important window to be made after a favourite pattern: we cannot conceive him, unless technically versed in the art, giving directions about ogees and cavetoes. Hence it is that mouldings are our best guide to dates, because they were not so open as tracery to external influence: Decorated tracery was more or less in use during the whole Perpendicular period, but we do not find it bringing with it the mouldings, with which it might be thought to be more familiar.

I would not be understood to say that the distinction between Geometrical and Flowing exists only in the tracery. It extends to piers, mouldings, everything; only as the forms of tracery are very much mingled together, the other details are much more so. I would undertake to design, strictly after ancient models, a purely Geometrical and a purely Flowing building: I would not undertake, offhand, to find such actually existing.

In piers we find the distinction marked only a little less clearly than in tracery. The clustered and channelled pier belong to the Early and the Continuous Gothic respectively; the former occurs in the Decorated of Dorchester and Exeter; the latter in that of Bristol and Ely. Yet, as if we were never to reach our ideal specimen of either style, in these two last cases, the tracery, which is generally a head of the piers, has lagged considerably behind.

If I can persuade Mr. Sharpe and "F. S. A." that they mean the same thing, I shall have done a great work: if they will only believe, on my testimony, in the existence of some one who thinks they are both right, they will be at least on the road to so happy a consummation. Till then, I would ask them to accept a piece of counsel veiled in a dead language:—  
*οὐ δὲ μὴ πρὸς ὁμοῖον, ἀλλὰ πρὸς ἕνα  
 λόγον, ἵνα γινώσκῃς ἀπορίᾳ δὲ οὐ σίμῳ  
 ἀνθρώπῳ ποιεῖν ἄριστον ἀποφασίζεις.*

EDWARD A. FREEMAN.

P.S.—While writing the above I have seen the excellent letter of my friend Mr. Scott, in *THE BUILDER* of August 2. I have really had as yet no time to do justice to it, yet Mr. Scott will find that even a very cursory perusal has not been lost upon me.

**REPEAL OF THE WINDOW DUTY.**—The new Act (14 & 15 Vict. c. 36) to repeal the window duty and to substitute a house duty, has been printed. This Act has a retrospective operation. The new house duty will date in England and Wales from the 5th April last, and from Whit Sunday last in Scotland, from which time the window duty will cease and determine, after a continuance from 48 Geo. III. The new duties are to be under the care of the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue. The new law is entitled, "An Act to repeal the Duties payable on Dwelling-houses, according to the number of Windows or Lights, and to grant in lieu thereof other Duties on inhabited Houses, according to their Annual Value." There, then, at all events, is an end of the detested light and health tax.

\* See "History of Architecture," pp. 363, 369.

## NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

**Chester: Gas.**—The old Chester Gas Company have just announced that they will reduce the price of gas from 5s. 6d. to 4s. per 1,000 cubic feet from the 1st July last. This is in consequence of the corporation having granted the use of the streets to a new company, who gave a guarantee that the future supply of gas for the city should not exceed 4s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet. We understand it is the intention of the new company, who have commenced their works, to lay their mains immediately; and we also understand that the old company intend to contest the ground, inch by inch, and will submit to a reduction even to 3s. and 2s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet, rather than be extinguished by a rival company. It is to be hoped that under the new and improved arrangements, this ancient and venerable city will cast off the reproach of strangers, of a love of darkness scarcely rendered visible by the present miserable lights, like farthing rushlights, few and far between.

**Wroughton, near Swindon.**—The parish church has been for some months undergoing extensive repairs, having become much dilapidated from its great age and the injudicious meddlings, not only of the churchwarden beautifiers of the last century, but from medieval ignorance and superstition, a staircase to the roofloft having been cut out of an originally solid pier, which, with other mutilations, rendered the entire rebuilding of this arcade necessary. This is much to be regretted, as it was a very interesting specimen of early Anglo-Norman architecture, square massive piers, with narrow semicircular arches, and a clerestory of circular windows. The church, as now re-edified, presents examples of the prevailing styles of several centuries, from the simple arch and zig-zag mouldings of the Anglo-Norman, to the rich tracery and fluted pinnacles of the Perpendicular period. The sedilia and piscina are in good preservation. The walls appear originally to have been covered with polychromatic decorations, which the abominable whitewash has completely destroyed.

**Romford.**—A new British school-room was opened at Romford on 31st ult. The plan was presented by Mr. Charles Dyson, of Stratford, and the building was erected by Messrs. Curtis and Hammond, of Romford. The whole cost, with site, &c. will be about 300l., only part of which has yet been realised.

**Thorpe (Norwich).**—The new church at Thorpe hamlet, according to the *Norfolk Chronicle*, is now completed. The design was furnished by Mr. John Brown, architect. The building stands on the ground rising from the river opposite the precincts of the cathedral. It will be capable of accommodating 300 and upwards, two-thirds free. The seats are uniform, without separation by high partitions. The church will be dedicated to St. Matthew.

**Salisbury.**—The cathedral is about to be improved, it is said, by the removal of the organ, which now stands over the screen separating the nave from the choir, and placing it on the north side of the choir. By this arrangement an entire view of the interior of the building would be obtained, as in the case of Canterbury, Winchester, and Ely. A new Wesleyan chapel is to be built in Millford-street.

**Plymouth.**—The foundation stone of a new church in the district of Sutton-on-Plym was laid on Tuesday in last week. The edifice is to be erected from a design by Mr. B. Ferry, and will be constructed to hold 350 adults and children. It will consist of a nave and two aisles of four bays each, a chancel, and a tower at the east end. The tower is to carry a spire, if the funds permit. The roof will be open, and the decorations will be in the Pointed style. The windows are to be chiefly couplets. The seats in the body of the church will be open benches. Messrs. Bovey and Matcham are the contractors for executing the work.

**Grassmere.**—The monument to Wordsworth to be set up in the church here is now completed by Mr. T. Woolner. The likeness of the poet, sculptured in relief, is said to be good. Surmounted by a band of laurel leaves is the inscription, written by Professor Kehle.

**Halesowen.**—The strike of the nailers here and in the neighbourhood of Lye, Howley, Old Hill, &c., still continues, and is said to be daily gathering strength. Several of the masters are willing to give the list price, but as they are the exceptions, the men are disinclined to commence work for them, fearing that they would supply the firms who refuse the price.

**Coventry.**—The repairs in the nave of St. Michael's Church have been completed for the present. The plaster, dirt, and whitewash have been removed from the pillars, some of which have also been restored. Those of the arch opening to the basement of the tower, have also been scraped and restored, but the opening is being bricked up in the mean time.

**Preston.**—A considerable extension of the water-works, including a system of thorough filtration, is to be carried out in order to meet the increasing requirements of this town.

**Barnburgh.**—A memorial window of stained glass, to be placed in the church, has been executed by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle. In niches, with highly decorated canopies, from the church of St. Jacques, Liege, are three figures, the Saviour, St. James, and St. John, standing on pedestals, with ornamental panels, on which are legends or scrolls. In the tracery are angels and the Paschal Lamb.

**Dundee.**—A monument to Watt has been erected by the Messrs. Baxter, Brothers, on the summit of the engine-house of their extensive power-loom factories in the Wallace Feus. The monument is of wood, as the wall was not sufficiently strong to support one of more durable material. It is upwards of 5 feet in height, and painted white. The figure is seated, and represents the engineer engaged with a pair of compasses.

**Newry.**—The stonemasons employed at the Craigmore viaduct, near Newry, have struck work to obtain higher wages. Upwards of 300 have left employment. They were receiving, on an average, 3s. 6d. a-day; they claim 4s.

**Thomastown.**—The *Kilkenny Moderator* says, that Mr. Ryan, the contractor for the erection of Thomastown Workhouse, having disemployed one of the men, the great majority of the rest turned out and refused to work unless the dismissed operative was re-employed: the consequence was that the works were stopped for the day. On Monday morning some men fell into their work as usual, when they were immediately assailed by the rest with all sorts of abuse, and threatened with violence if they did not desist until the disemployed man of Saturday would be taken into the work. The contractor not only refused, but was about to take the necessary steps for prosecuting the ringleaders; when at length about mid-day the workmen seemed restored to reason, and there was a general return of all hands to work. Over 100 men have been employed for some time past at this building, which is fast progressing.

**Miscellaneous.**—It is proposed to enlarge the Newcastle Infirmary. Gas works are about to be erected at Corsham. A new cemetery is in course of formation near Leamington. The works for the erection of the Monster Hotel, in connection with the Britannia Bridge, are to be suspended for the present, the shareholders of the line being indisposed to sanction the expenditure of so large a sum of money in connection with the railway. We are requested to say that the monument at Wigan, ascribed in our last number to Mr. Gibbs, was designed by Mr. Truefit. Mr. Gibbs was the carver.

**CAERLEON ANTIQUARIAN ASSOCIATION.** The annual meeting of this association was held at Caerleon, on Monday in last week, and was attended by Lord Talbot de Malahide, and a numerous meeting of archaeologists and others. The report congratulated the Society on the advances made towards the completion of the museum. The Society had invited the members of the Archaeological Institute to inspect the local antiquities, and to take luncheon in the Roman amphitheatre. A party of one hundred and ten met according to invitation.